

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday August 4, 1976

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, August 4, 1976.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Situation Report

25X1 [] Arab League mediator Hasan Sabri al-Khuli is continuing his efforts to gain agreement on a Lebanese cease-fire, and newspapers in both Beirut and Damascus are talking optimistically of a truce scheduled to take effect early this morning. Several obstacles apparently remain, however, before a truce can be concluded.

25X1 [] Palestine Liberation Organization negotiator Qaddumi returned to Damascus last night for further talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam.

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25X1 [] Al-Khuli met yesterday with President Franjiyah to iron out differences but emerged from the meeting noting only that they had "discussed" a cease-fire.

25X1 [] The leftist political council recently formed by Kamal Jumblatt to administer west Beirut announced yesterday that it has created a military police force. Troops from the renegade Lebanese Arab Army and leftist militiamen apparently form the backbone of the force.

25X1 [] Fatah, which had been providing security for the Muslim sector of the city, has become increasingly concerned about the resentment its authority has engendered among Lebanese Muslims and apparently has elected to support the new force only indirectly.

25X1 [] The commander of the police unit--a member of the largest left-wing militia in Beirut--has stressed that the force's primary task is to restore order and end the recent wave of kidnappings, but he added that it would also be used to help the leftist council take over permanent control of the city administration from "conservative politicians who have ruled since 1948."

25X1 [] In answer to Jumblatt's attempt to take over administrative control of west Beirut, President Franjiyah has called for a cabinet meeting today--the first since late March--to consider reviving the central government's administrative apparatus. Franjiyah reportedly also intends to try to engineer Prime Minister Karami's dismissal.

25X1 [] Karami has already announced that he will not attend the session on the grounds that he no longer recognizes Franjiyah as the legitimate president of Lebanon. Other Muslim cabinet ministers--angered over Franjiyah's appointment of Camille Shamun as foreign minister in mid-June--will probably also boycott the meeting.

25X1 [] Ironically, Franjiyah's moves and Karami's reaction will probably work to Jumblatt's advantage by underscoring the total collapse of the central government and the lack of any real power among traditional Muslim leaders, like Karami, to represent Muslim interests.

25X1 [] Fighting was at a low level throughout most of Lebanon yesterday, and a local cease-fire in the Tall Zatar area of Beirut finally permitted evacuation of the first increment of wounded from the camp. A total of 91 were taken out of the camp yesterday.

25X1 [] Red Cross officials are hopeful that the evacuation can be continued for five or six days until the more than 1,000 wounded are removed. Christian officials on the scene yesterday, however, told the press it would not be "realistic" to allow the camp's defenders an extended truce.

25X1 [] //Christian leaders hope that Palestinian forces will voluntarily leave the camp after the wounded have been removed, leaving the area fully in Christian hands. They are working on a similar arrangement for the Shia Muslim district of Nabaa.//

25X1 [] //The Christians have agreed with Arab League officials to remove the wounded from Nabaa, and they anticipate that the district, already almost completely vacated, will soon come under their control. Nabaa and Tall Zatar are the last Muslim enclaves in the Christian sector of Beirut.//

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[redacted] Christian and Syrian forces continue shelling Palestinian and leftist positions in the Jazzin area, but ground fighting appears to have tapered off. The Christians claimed on Monday night that the key town of Rum, site of a regional Fatah headquarters, had been "regained."

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GUINEA-USSR: Reconnaissance Flights

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[REDACTED] President Toure has told US Ambassador Harrop in Conakry that he intends to deny the USSR the use of Guinea as a staging base for TU-95 naval reconnaissance flights in the Atlantic beginning next month. We have no information that he has so informed the Soviets.

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[REDACTED] //Toure explained that he had originally allowed the Soviet surveillance flights to protect Guinea against a seaborne attack on Conakry, as was mounted by Portuguese-backed forces and Guinean exiles in 1970. Toure assured the ambassador that he no longer fears such an attack and that he is now determined to pursue a policy of nonalignment.//

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[REDACTED] //During the Angolan conflict, when Conakry was a principal staging base for Soviet arms flights to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, Toure was sensitive to criticism of increased Soviet military activity in Guinea from other African states and Western countries. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] //Guinea has derived substantial benefits from its close ties with the USSR, but the relationship has always caused concern for Toure. He is above all a nationalist, and he does not want to become any more closely tied to the Soviets.//

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[REDACTED] //On the other hand, Toure may only be giving the appearance of receptivity to Western concerns. He avoided discussing with Ambassador Harrop the small Soviet naval patrol which has been off Conakry since 1970. Toure values the patrol in part because it serves to strengthen his position against domestic enemies.//

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EGYPT: Military Build-up

25X1 [redacted] //Some Egyptian military officers view their coun-
try's military build-up on the Libyan border as a US-engineered
25X1 scheme to divert Egypt's attention from Israel, [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] "many" mili-
tary officers believe the US is encouraging an Egyptian opera-
tion against Libya because the US cannot fulfill its promises
to arrange the return of Israeli-occupied territory in the Si-
nai and wants to focus Egyptian forces away from that area.//

25X1 [redacted] //The officers allegedly also believe that the US,
having succeeded in "getting the Soviets out of Egypt," now
wants to use Egypt to force the removal of President Qadhafi
and thus end the Soviet presence in Libya as well.//

25X1 [redacted] most Egyptian offi-
cers dislike Qadhafi but feel he could be ousted without such
a large commitment of Egyptian forces. They think Egypt's mili-
tary readiness against Israel is being reduced at US behest to
fight "the wrong enemy," and they regard President Sadat as a
US pawn.//

25X1 [redacted] //We do not know how widespread these sentiments
are. They are probably not as prevalent [redacted]
but we believe his report nonetheless reflects the views of at
least a segment of the Egyptian military.//

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25X1 [] //The officers who reportedly think Qadhafi could be ousted with less than the force now gathered on the border-- or that Israel could be challenged credibly if there were no build-up against Libya--clearly have an inflated notion of Egypt's military capabilities.//

25X1 [] //We have previously known of a group of Egyptian officers, who we believe to be primarily junior grade, who think Egypt could have taken more territory from Israel militarily than it has regained through negotiations. These officers blame Sadat and the US for tying their hands.//

25X1 [] //Their complaints and those of the officers who reportedly believe the front against Israel has been further weakened by the build-up on the Libyan border would undoubtedly be silenced by a successful operation against Libya. An unsuccessful operation or a prolonged deployment on the border without action could increase this discontent and also aggravate grievances against Sadat over economic and other issues unrelated to the military situation. []

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GREECE-TURKEY: Aegean Dispute

25X1 [] A new ingredient was added to the Greek-Turkish dispute over sovereignty in the Aegean yesterday when Athens announced it had sent its own oceanographic ship, the Nautilus, into the northern Aegean.

25X1 [] A similar Turkish vessel, the Sismik I, entered the Aegean last week accompanied by a naval escort. The Nautilus reportedly is operating alone, although press reports say it is "in contact" with Greek warships.

25X1 [] In Ankara, the Turkish government has thus far declined to resume talks with Athens--broken off late last month--to devise a compromise formula for safe passage of the Sismik through contested waters.

25X1 [] Ankara has yet to indicate the Sismik's itinerary between August 20 and mid-September, however, and the presence of the Greek ship Nautilus in the northern Aegean may prompt Ankara to press its own case.

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CHILE: Political Prisoners

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[] In another move to improve its image--particularly in the US--the Pinochet government announced last night that 250 political prisoners would be released as soon as countries could be found to accept them.

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[] This will bring the total number freed to about 610 since Secretary Simon's visit to Santiago in May. Although foreign ministry sources did not identify the detainees, the press reported earlier that Allende's former economy minister, Fernando Flores, had been granted an exit permit allowing him to go into exile in the US. []

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LIBYA: Draft Canceled

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[] //Libyan President Qadhafi has shelved, at least temporarily, his planned call-up of some 20,000 civil servants for military service.//

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[] //Qadhafi has been planning for some time to expand the armed forces to man his growing stocks of Soviet and West European weapons. His efforts have been frustrated, however, by the small population base on which he can draw--about 2.5 million--and the general lack of interest on the part of eligible males.//

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[] //Although the proposed draft has been deferred, the preparations necessary for its eventual implementation reportedly have been completed. Information on all Libyans subject to the draft is said to have been stored in the Libyan air force's central computer in the event Qadhafi again changes his mind.//

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[] //In the meantime, Libyan students reportedly are being called up for military training during vacation periods, and unskilled Libyans who did not respond to the nationwide pre-induction registration order earlier this summer are now being drafted as a punitive measure. []

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ITALY: Confidence Votes

25X1 [] The Italian parliament today begins debate in preparation for confidence votes in the senate and chamber on Prime Minister Andreotti's Christian Democratic minority government. A vote will be taken in the senate before the end of the week and in the chamber next week.

25X1 [] Andreotti must survive the confidence votes in both houses to complete the installation of his cabinet, which was sworn in by President Leone last week. Since none of the major parties will join the Christian Democrats in voting affirmatively, Andreotti needs Communist abstention in order to obtain the requisite majorities.

25X1 [] Andreotti, meanwhile, received some encouragement from abroad yesterday when French Justice Minister Lecanuet conveyed the French government's willingness to support Andreotti's efforts to deal with Italy's economic problems. Lecanuet did not publicly specify what form French support would take. [] 25X1

WEST BERLIN - USSR: European Parliament Elections

25X1 [] Moscow has formally protested to the US, the UK, and France that West Berlin's participation, direct or indirect, in elections to the European Parliament would be a violation of the September 1971 Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin.

25X1 [] In a meeting yesterday with Ambassador Stoessel, a Soviet official declared that "state-political integration" is involved and that this EC activity would inevitably affect the current status of West Berlin.

25X1 [] The official stressed the seriousness Moscow attaches to the prospect of West Berlin's representation in the European Parliament. He indicated that Moscow expects the three Western Allies to "take all necessary measures" to prevent such a development. [] 25X1

HONDURAS - EL SALVADOR: OAS Team Arriving

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[] The arrival of OAS military observers on the border between Honduras and El Salvador will probably halt significant clashes for the time being. Prospects appear good for a pull-back of both countries' forces from disputed areas.

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[] The OAS delegation has officers from 11 nations, including the US. Some observers are already in place.

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[] US assistance has been requested to improve communications at the border; poor communications were a contributing factor in the clashes.

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[] The OAS team will attempt to implement the agreement reached on July 29 calling for a cease-fire and the establishment of security zones in the disputed areas. These are essentially the same provisions subscribed to by Honduras and El Salvador following their brief war in 1969. []

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